Hahn Among Top 50 Women in Science

Dr. Beatrice Hahn, Professor of Medicine and Microbiology at UAB, and a senior scientist within the Center, was recently named one of the top 50 most important women in science by Discover magazine. Dr. Hahn, a world-renowned AIDS researcher, led an international team of scientists in the discovery of the origin of HIV-1. These findings, announced in 1999, identified a subspecies of West-Central African chimpanzee as the natural reservoir of the virus.

Discover magazine recognized Dr. Hahn and other female scientists in its November 2002 issue. The women were selected on the basis of their exceptional and continuing contributions to the field of science. A personal interview with Dr. Hahn was published in the December 2002 issue. This extended version as well as the abstract of the original article is available online at www.discover.com.

CFAR Developmental Award Program

The Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) administers an annual Developmental Grant program aimed at fostering novel HIV research. The Center accepts applications from UAB faculty or Southern Research investigators for this program. There are three categories for these awards: (1) Developmental funds for junior faculty to initiate research programs in AIDS-related areas, and to obtain data that will facilitate nationally competitive applications; (2) Developmental funds for established investigators to initiate timely AIDS-related research programs; and (3) Developmental funds for innovative HIV research projects to support multidisciplinary approaches to HIV research problems. For more detailed information on the Development Award Program, please visit www.uabcfar.ua.edu/cores/development.

The most recent cycle of peer-reviewed developmental awards resulted in support for the following four UAB faculty members.

Frederic Bibollet-Ruche, PhD (Hematology/Oncology)
DNA Repair and IgG Subclasses in SIV Pathogenesis. The objective of this project is to examine the causal relationship between genetic differences in species-specific IgG subclasses and the trapping of infectious virus particles on follicular dendritic cells.

Patricia Fultz, PhD (Microbiology)
DNA Repair and p53 in HIV/SIV Infection. Using HIV and SIV infection of primary lymphocytes and macrophages, this project proposes to assist in clarifying interactions of HIV with specific intracellular pathways, and may suggest new therapeutic approaches to treating HIV disease.

David Levy, PhD (Hematology/Oncology)
Regulation of HIV-1 Recombination During Infection. Using a novel system that permits immediate quantitation of recombination during virus replication, this study aims to better characterize recombination, and to examine the effects of mutation in Reverse Transcriptase on recombination.

Michelle Amaya, MD, MPH (Pediatrics)
Feasibility of Human Immunodeficiency Virus Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Following Child Sexual Abuse: UAB-Zambia. This is a prospective study of the feasibility of providing a combined medical and behavioral intervention to child victims of sexual assault in Zambia, in order to prevent transmission of HIV. Co-P.I. on this study will be Mwaba Bota, MD, MPH. Several other UAB and Zambian investigators will collaborate on this multidisciplinary project.

!! NEW LOW PRICE !!
The CFAR DNA Sequencing Core has reduced its price to $12.00 per reaction. For additional information please call 934-3972.
Dennis Burton, Ph.D.
January 29, 2003

Dr. Burton is a professor in the Department of Immunology at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, CA. His current interests include antibodies, viruses and vaccines. Dr. Burton's research is focused on infectious diseases with special interest in human antibody responses to viruses and in vaccine design. He works on HIV, respiratory syncytial virus (a virus that causes many respiratory problems in young children) and two emerging viruses, Ebola virus and hantavirus. He also works on the infectious proteins known as prions that cause prion diseases such as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) and bovine spongiform encephalomyelitis (BSE). He currently holds a MERIT award from the National Institutes of Health. He is a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee for the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) and for the American Foundation for AIDS Research. For additional information, visit www.scripps.edu/imm/burton/index.htm

David Kabat, Ph.D.
February 26, 2003

Dr. Kabat is a professor with the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland. Dr. Kabat's interests include membrane envelope glycoproteins encoded by human and animal retroviruses, the cell surface receptors with which they interact, and the mechanisms by which these interactions alter host cells. For additional information, visit www.ohsu.edu/som-biochem/faculty/kabat.shtml

Andrew McMichael, Ph.D.
February 19, 2003

Dr. McMichael is Professor of Molecular Medicine at the MRC Human Immunology Unit at Oxford. His current interests include the study of Cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTL), a subpopulation of white blood cells that seek out and kill cells that appear foreign because they are infected with viruses or other microorganisms. Dr. McMichael's laboratory has investigated how human CTL recognize cells infected with influenza virus or Human Immunodeficiency Virus. Also of interest to Dr. McMichael and his group is the early immune response to a new viral infection. For additional information, visit immwww.jrz.ox.ac.uk/groups/mrc-hiul/pages/groups/mcmichael/mcmichael.htm

The Care Team Network Leadership Training Conference

We invite you to attend our next Care Team Leadership Training Conference (LTC), February 6th and February 7th, 2003. The LTC will focus on training participants how to develop and support Care Teams where they worship, work, or live. The upcoming LTC will have a specific focus on developing teams for people with HIV/AIDS within the African-American community. The LTC will be held at Sixth Avenue Baptist Church in Birmingham, from 8:30-4:30 each day. Brochures are available to share with your congregation or any interested group. For more information on this LTC or others around the country, please visit www.careteam.org or call 975-9129.